



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Newport News, VA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

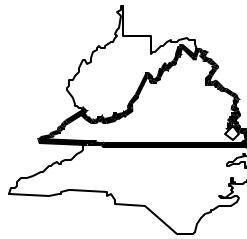
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Newport News for a Brownfields Pilot. Newport News (population 182,190) is located in southeast Virginia, where the James River meets the Chesapeake Bay. Founded in the early 1600s, the city's industrial history began in 1881, when it became the eastern terminus of the first transcontinental railway and home to many shipyards. During the two World Wars, the city was an important gateway to the European front, serving as a departure point for thousands of American soldiers, and welcoming them home at the wars' conclusions.

Newport News is a linear city, stretching 27 miles long and measuring less than five miles wide at its broadest point. It is more than 90 percent developed. The Victory Arch, built in what was the center of the city to commemorate the city's role in soldier deployment, today stands in an area populated with abandoned factories and old shipyards that contains the highest proportions of minority and low-income residents in the city. Many of the industrial sites in this part of the city are impacted by real or perceived contamination. The Pilot will target brownfields in and around this area.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



Newport News, Virginia

Date of Announcement:  
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets up  
to three sites in the southern  
part of the city.

#### Contacts:

City of Newport News  
(757) 926-8428

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 3  
(215) 814-3129

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

The Pilot's objective is to complement and expand the city's ongoing renewal efforts including projects to clean up and redevelop area brownfields. The Pilot-targeted sites will be assessed, cleaned up, and redeveloped in conformance with the city's comprehensive plan that addresses economic diversification, neighborhood preservation and park expansion. These sites will serve as a cornerstone for the ongoing redevelopment strategies to return brownfields to environmental and economic health.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Creating an inventory of potential target sites;
- Selecting up to three sites for environmental assessments;
- Developing cleanup and redevelopment plans; and
- Conducting community involvement activities, as well as augmenting existing programs.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.